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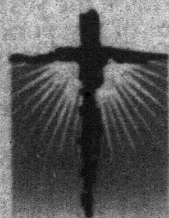
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U.S. approves U.N. homosexual decree

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Obama administration announced March 18 its support for a United Nations (UN) declaration urging the global decriminalization of homosexuality.

The news, reported by the Associated Press (AP), marked a reversal in the United States' position on a non-binding measure considered by the U.N. General Assembly Dec. 18. At that time, 66 countries backed the barrier-breaking declaration, while more than 50 opposed it and the remainder of the 192 members abstained, according to The New York Times.

"The United States supports the U.N.'s statement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity and is pleased to join the other 66 U.N. member states who have declared their support of the statement," State Department spokesman Robert Wood said, according to AP.

"The United States is an outspoken defender of human rights and critic of human rights abuses around the world," Wood said. "As such, we join with other supporters of this statement, and we will continue to remind countries of the importance of respecting the human rights of all people in all appropriate international fora (plural for forum)."

The U.N. declaration goes beyond decriminalization, according to the Family Research Council (FRC). "It condemns not only 'violence' and 'harassment,' but also 'stigmatization and prejudice,' terms which some would apply to any disapproval of homosexual conduct, no matter how peaceful and loving," FRC President Tony Perkins wrote in his March 18 Washington Update e-mail.

In December, officials of the Bush administration said it opposed the proclamation as too broad, charging it might be seen as an effort to abrogate states' rights on such issues as homosexual marriage," according to The Times.

The declaration says in part, "We urge States to ensure that human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity are investigated and perpetrators held accountable and brought to justice."

"We are opposed to any discrimination, legally or politically, but the nature of our federal system prevents us from undertaking commitments and engagements where federal authorities don't have jurisdiction," Alejandro Wolff, the deputy permanent U.S. representative to the U.N., was quoted by The Times as saying in December — but after an inter-agency review, the Obama administration decided the declaration would not commit the U.S. to any "legal obligations," Wood was quoted as saying in AP.

In addition to the U.S., other U.N. members that declined to endorse the declaration were the Vatican, China, Russia, and members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, The Times reported.

Supporters of the declaration in December included the 27 members of the European Union as well as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Israel, Japan, and Mexico, according to news reports.



United Nations complex in Manhattan

In a Dec. 18 written statement, the Vatican said it opposes criminal penalties for homosexuality and violence against homosexuals. The declaration, however, "goes well beyond" those issues, it said. The classifications of sexual orientation and gender identity used in the document "find no recognition or clear and agreed definition in international law," the Vatican said.

Seventy U.N. members have laws against homosexuality, according to AP. The death penalty exists for homosexuality in seven countries, Bloomberg News reported. They are Iran, Mauritania, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Meanwhile, California Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer has caused growing concern by encouraging the United States to ratify another UN treaty that would allow for what critics describe as government intrusion in parents' lives.

The treaty is known as the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. "[The treaty] treats children as autonomous beings and restricts parents by negating parental rights," said Wendy Wright, president of Concerned Women for America (CWA).

The treaty calls for a child to grow up in a "family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding," according to the treaty's preamble. Establishing the treaty as bind-

ing in the United States would allow Congress to hold ultimate authority over minors, according to Concerned Women for America, and as a result, many legal issues could arise among American families. For instance, spanking could be considered abuse under the treaty, critics say.

Although the nearly 20-year-old UN treaty has been accepted by all countries except the U.S. and Somalia, it is seen as a dead issue in America at this time. The treaty would be unlikely to gain approval because it would require two-thirds of the Senate's support for ratification under the U.S. Constitution.

Boxer said she hopes the treaty will provide for and expand children's rights. "Children deserve basic human rights... and the convention protects children's rights by setting some standards here so that the most vulnerable people of society will be protected," Boxer said in a statement to Fox News.

Parental Rights, an organization based in northern Virginia that operates to protect child-parent relationships, has also expressed its concern about the treaty. According to Parental Rights, under the treaty:

- Parents could no longer discipline their children with spankings.
- Parents would no longer have authority over their child's religion.
- The government would have primary authority to override every parental decision.

• Christian schools would be pushed to teach "alternative worldviews."

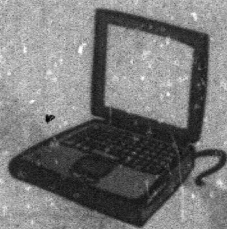
• Parents could not opt their children out of sex education.

• Children would not need parental consent for abortions.

The substance of the treaty is not the only concern from critics. After the treaty is signed, it requires a committee to oversee and enforce the treaty. The committee then suggests what a country needs to do in compliance. CWA has been critical of not only the Convention on the Rights of the Child but also on The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The U.N. Committee on CEDAW has gone beyond what is necessary to enforce the treaty in countries that have ratified it, consistently interfering with cultural, legal, and personal issues in countries, Concerned Women for America reported. Some countries had to change all of their textbooks and teachings, CWA said.

"There are outrageous things from the committee that the countries must do," Wright said.



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Onward, Christian Soldiers

Dominating the news lately has been the Obama administration's recent announcement that American taxpayers will begin funding the destruction of human beings at the embryonic stage for their stem cells. Before that, it was the new President's quick lifting of restrictions on using taxpayers' money to facilitate abortions in other countries. Before that it was...

Well, before that it was a story just as important, but the news whizzes by us at such breakneck speed that most of us can't even remember what it was. Just as we are formulating our response to the pressing current issue, there are a half-dozen more coming right at us like a runaway freight train. It's hard to keep up.

That's the nature of the modern 24/7 news cycle, but it's also the nature of humanity's slide into sin and perversion. Throwing too much at us at one time is a key weapon in Satan's arsenal. It discourages us and makes us want to retreat to a calmer spiritual locale, but that's really not the place for Christians.

We may not get to set the pace, but we get to fight the good fight — and the place for us is in the fight. The outcome is up to God.

One of the issues that has gained ground while we have been overwhelmed of late with other news is the advance of homosexual rights in this country. While we were rightly addressing the wrongness of killing human embryos, funding foreign abortions as a matter of U.S. policy, and the many other problems facing this country, the homosexual agenda has made a great deal of progress under our radar screens.

The Vermont Senate approved a bill this week by a veto-proof, 26-4 majority that would recognize homosexual mar-

NEW MEMBER FOLLOW-UP BY MONSTRO CHURCH....

"AND STARTING TODAY, YOU WILL BE MEMBERS NO. 5060978. YOU'LL WANT TO REFER TO THIS IN ALL YOUR CONTACT WITH THE MAIN OFFICE."



riages as legitimate, legal unions in that state. The state's House of Representatives is also expected to green light the measure, although possibly not by a veto-proof majority.

That leaves the veto of Republican Governor Jim Douglas, who has blasted the legislature for taking up the bill when there is other, more pressing business at hand, as the last possible barrier to legalized homosexual marriage in Vermont.

"I will not stand by and let someone tell me that just because of someone's sexual orientation they can or cannot be a good parent," said Democratic Senator John Campbell, the bill's outspoken sponsor.

If the bill becomes law, Vermont will be the first state to legalize homosexual marriage by legislation rather than by fiat of activist judges. Connecticut and Massachusetts were forced to accept homosexual marriage by such judges.

Baptist Press offers the following current updates on homosexual rights issues in other states:

- In Maine, a bill that would legalize homosexual marriage has 56 sponsors and co-sponsors in the 151-member House and eight sponsors in the 35-member Senate.

- In Washington state, a bill that would expand the state's domestic partnerships law to grant same-sex couples all the legal benefits of marriage passed the Senate by a vote of 30-18 March 10, and now heads to the state House.

- In Illinois, a bill that would legalize same-sex civil unions and provide all the legal benefits of marriage passed a House committee 4-3 on March 5 and now heads to the full chamber.

- In New Jersey, Gov. Jon Corzine made his strongest remarks yet regarding homosexual marriage on Feb. 28 when speaking to a dinner benefitting Garden State Equality, a homosexual organization.

"I'm a Democrat and I'm straight and I believe in marriage equality," he said, according to The Star-Ledger. "...If we work together, 2009 will be the year when I will take this pen out of my pocket and we will sign the marriage equality bill."

- In New Mexico, a bill that would have legalized same-sex domestic partnerships was defeated Feb. 26 in the Senate by a vote of 25-17. Gov. Bill Richardson had supported the bill, which would have granted same-sex couples the legal benefits of marriage.

- In Hawaii, a bill that would legalize same-sex civil unions deadlocked in a Senate committee 3-3 on Feb. 25, and is in limbo following an outpouring of opposition from Christians.

Indeed, it is dizzying to try to keep up with all the present-day issues that could have an impact on the direction of this country and the Christian faith, far beyond our lifetimes. We don't have a choice, though. Christians need to stand in and be counted in the most bruising of these battles.

After what Jesus did for us, it's the least we can do for Him.

GUEST OPINION:



See you in Louisville!

By Johnny M. Hunt, president
Southern Baptist Convention

Iwould like to encourage all my fellow Southern Baptists to join me at our annual meeting June 23-24 in Louisville, Ky.

It has been a joy and privilege serving as your president the past nine months. I have traveled to many of your states and witnessed first-hand the way the Lord is moving in so many places. That has been so encouraging to me.

However, we still have so many places nationally and internationally where we need to encourage, motivate and refocus on the mission the Lord has given us to reach others with the good news of the Gospel.

That is exactly what we want to accomplish as we gather together in Louisville. We have sought the Lord as we have planned our program for our meeting. I believe He has helped us to do just that. We have some incredibly encouraging worship times planned with some musicians who truly desire to honor the Lord and lead us to the throne of God.

I have invited some young men to speak to us who have never addressed our convention. They will have a special and fresh message to challenge us from the Word of God from a little different perspective than perhaps we have been accustomed. I believe that will be healthy for us as a denomination.

I have also made committee appointments with many of the young men who are doing a great job in many of our churches. Many of them have never served before.

As you may have heard already I have chosen the

theme, Love Loud — Actions Speak Louder Than Words. The Scripture is Matthew 5:16. We simply have got to do a better job of showing this generation that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ not only talks the talk but walks the walk.

It really is true that "people don't care what you know till they know that you care." All our time together in Louisville will be with that focus in mind.

I am asking you to make a commitment to do absolutely all you can to be present in Louisville. I realize this is a bad time with the economy and it will be increasingly

more difficult for you to make the effort to come. However, we cannot be encouraged as effectively to make new strides in our efforts to reach the world as we can if we come together for those two days.

I believe with all my heart you will leave inspired and grateful you made the effort to come on Wednesday night, June 24, when we complete our time together.

I am looking so forward to seeing you in Louisville. Visit www.sbc.net and register as a messenger and bring some folks with you. Join me in praying that our time in Louisville will honor our blessed Lord. That is my desire.

If you are not able to join us there, please log on to the sbcc.net web site and watch as much of the meeting as you can during those two days.

Hunt is pastor of First Church in Woodstock, Ga. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. For more information on the 2009 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 23-24 in Louisville, Ky., visit www.sbc.net.

Pastors' Conference to encourage advances

MOBILE, Ala. (BP) — Ed Litton believes that in a time of seismic cultural changes and economic uncertainty, Southern Baptists face both danger and opportunity. The danger, he says, is that churches will retreat into a safe place, while the opportunity is to trust God and see Him move powerfully to change people's hearts and transform society.

As president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Pastors' Conf., Litton is crafting a program for the annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., that he hopes will spark the latter. He is challenging pastors to exert unusual effort to help that happen.

"We're in a time of seismic change in our culture. There are huge shifts taking place," said Litton, who is pastor of First North Mobile Church in Saraland, AL, "and people are feeling a lot of economic pressure today. There's a palpable fear and, I sense, a withdrawing."

"That's dangerous. The danger is that we're going to kind of lock up and ride this thing out when we have a great opportunity to trust God, to believe God, and to reach out more during this crisis than ever before."

The dramatic political and social changes occurring in America, from the rise of aggressive atheism to the shooting of a pastor in the pulpit, should drive Christians to evaluate their priorities in light of their mission, Litton said.

"I would love to see a passionate revival to the Great Commission. I think the Great Commission solves a lot of those problems for us because ultimately it's the transformation of people's hearts that matters," he said. "We need to come back to the Great Commission and say, 'This is what we're here to do.'"

"It could help us streamline when we go budget cutting and having to deal with difficult things," Litton added. "What really is mission essential here? What can we afford to get rid of and what can we never afford to get rid of? Those kinds of questions are being dealt with every day by pastors all over this country."

As he consulted with SBC President Johnny Hunt about the need for a "Great Commission resurgence" among Southern Baptists, Litton found himself reminded of Philippians 2:2 — "Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." (NASB)

He said he found himself wondering how things would be different if all Southern Baptists truly had the mind, love, spirit, and purpose of Christ.

"We came up with the idea of asking the simple question, 'What if?'" Litton said. "It's a counter-factual. If we answer that question correctly as God's people, I am convinced we will experience a resurgence of the Great Commission in Southern Baptist life. It will help us focus in very difficult times in this country and throughout the world."

Organized under the "What if?" theme, the 2009 Pastors' Conference, set for June 21-22 in Louisville, will bring pastors together to seek a transforming revival of passion for the Great Commission.

Litton said the program will feature a widely varied slate of speakers:

- J.D. Greear, Summit Church in Durham, N.C.
- Mac Brunson, First Church in Jacksonville, FL
- Chuck Colson, Prison Fellowship



Litton

- Mike Landry, Sarasota (FL) Church
- Ed Stetzer, LifeWay Research in Nashville
- Francis Chan, Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, Ca.
- Tom Elliff, International Mission Board in Richmond, Va.
- Michael Catt, Sherwood Church in Albany, Ga.
- Fred Luter Jr., Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans
- Johnny Hunt, First Church in Woodstock, Ga.
- David Platt, Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, AL

The program also includes former Southern Baptist pastor and 2008 presidential candidate Mike Huckabee.

A key influence in shaping the program was the fact that so few young pastors participated in the 2008 annual meeting in Indianapolis, Litton said.

"Some of our lineup is designed to include younger people who have a message and a voice that fits the theme we are presenting, who demonstrate in their ministry and their life a commitment to the Great Commission," Litton said. "I want to appeal to pastors to bring a younger pastor with them."

Another difference this year is that Litton is issuing a broad appeal for donations to support the conference, which could cost as much as \$140,000. The Pastors' Conference must raise the entire cost of the conference each year.

"We are asking churches, large and small, to consider giving something to support the

Pastors' Conference. Raising those funds is a large part of what I have been doing since I was elected," Litton said. "We've had several people be very generous. My pastor brothers of the largest have been absolutely, powerfully, wonderfully supportive, but we still have a ways to go on that."

Many years, Pastors' Conference presidents lead megachurches that can underwrite the majority of the expense, Litton said. The current economic situation, however, has created a need for a broader range of participation in financial support. The website for the Pastors' Conference, sbpc.net, now has a donation page to make that easier, he said.

Litton said he believes that when Southern Baptists are challenged, they will rally to a need, whether it's about a "Great Commission resurgence" or getting more involved in supporting the Pastors' Conference.

"This is a time for us to walk by faith and to live out our faith and to believe God. I think that's happening all over the convention. Churches are going to rally," he said. "We went through Hurricane Katrina here in Mobile, and it was amazing how Southern Baptists rallied. I've never been more proud to be a Southern Baptist."

"I think this is our hour to do that, even economically, in this country."

Looking back

10 years ago

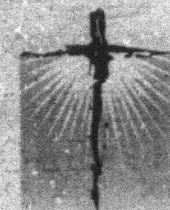
Freddie Cook, 37-year-veteran of service with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, retires as head of maintenance at Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian. Cook supervised a full-time staff of eight as well as another 12 people during the summer season.

20 years ago

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union looks to the theme, Find Us Faithful, as they gather at Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, for their 110th annual meeting. Joan Tyler of Collins is elected to a five-year term as president. Wilda Fancher of Monticello presided for her fifth and final year.

30 years ago

Clarke College receives an organ for the first time in its history. The new Baldwin 5-A with a retail value of \$3,600 is a gift of the T.A. Gilbert family, Meridian, in memory of their son, 1st Lieutenant James Kenneth Gilbert, who was killed during World War II.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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No. 13



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Fetal harvest proposed

WASHINGTON (BP) — A top British scientist has recommended research into the transplantation of kidneys and livers from aborted babies, prompting an outcry from pro-life advocates. Richard Gardner, an Oxford University stem cell specialist and an adviser to Britain's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, proposed studies using organs from aborted human beings at a recent biomedical conference, according to a March 11 report in the Daily Mail, a British newspaper. "It is at least a temporary solution" to the organ donor shortage, Gardner said. Nearly 7,000 of the 8,000 Brits on transplant lists need kidneys, the Daily Mail reported. Stuart Campbell, a British obstetrics and gynecology professor, endorsed the proposal. If babies "are going to be terminated, it is a shame to waste their organs," Campbell said, according to the newspaper. "I am sure very few of those on the transplant list would rather die than accept an organ from an aborted fetus." Pro-life advocates on both sides of the Atlantic decried the suggestion. Some said it presented the possibility of abortions being scheduled to coincide with transplants, the Daily Mail reported. "This is about as scary as the news can get," Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. wrote in a March 16 commentary. "Here we confront a serious proposal to use aborted fetuses as factories for spare organs and tissues. Having commodified the human embryo and then allowing its destruction in the name of medical progress, the fetus is next in line."

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By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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GNDVE IIV: FLVIRF-QXKV

Clue: C=1

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: James Four: Seven

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THE CHANGING LANGUAGE

English is and always has been an evolving, growing language. In some ways that can be said of every language all through the years. There are words that flow into the language sometimes by accident and at other times by intent that almost immediately have acceptance. People begin to use the words on a regular basis. Our English language is certainly that way. You and I constantly have to adapt to or at least be alert to it in order that we might comprehend what is going on around us. The electronic communication age has forced this to new heights and has brought on rapid expansion and constant changes that are almost impossible for us to keep up with.

Just by way of example, I can throw out words like Google, Blog, Facebook, or Twitter and the majority of people know exactly what I am talking about even if you are not computer savvy. You have a sense of something going on out there. These huge eruptions of electronic connections are stamped on our society. Google is somewhere over a decade old and yet for someone who uses the computer at all it is almost indispensable. It seems like only yesterday that the Internet, this worldwide web of instant communication, came on the scene. Facebook recently celebrated their fifth anniversary and Twitter is not that old.

For those who may resist change and do not like new things, it is advisable to get a strong seat belt because we are still in the early stages of the eruption of new ideas and especially in communications and connectedness through the Internet. Now, the reason that I mention these things and bring up these new words is not to attempt to expand your Internet and computer vocabulary. That is way beyond me, but I would like to point out some important facts about all of us.

The first fact that I would point out is that people can learn. You may think that is stating the obvious, but be as it may, people can learn. You and I may not understand how Google

actually works, but a simple demonstration takes only about 30 seconds to help folks understand that it does work. You can find sources and resources connected to almost any word, any thought, any idea, any invention, and any thing that comes to the human mind by simply putting it in Google and hitting "search." It is almost indescribable.

Now apply that to other areas of life, especially when it comes to things of the Lord and biblical truth. This simple principle about folks becomes equally significant. People can learn. From time to time, I hear people, young and old, kind of shrug off the Word of God because they do not understand it. They pick out words that sometimes we throw around in our faith vocabulary and say they do not know what they mean. We do use some words that may not be common, every day, run-of-the-people conversation pieces like redeemed, reconciled, predestinate, and propitiation. They may be hard to process and out of the norm. We may even use more common words like apostle, epistle, Gospel, or glory. What are we talking about when we say those things? Well, I come back to my basic fact and remind you that people can learn. We might be well served to help them understand the beauty as well as the complicatedness of what God has done for us.

A second fact that I would point out is simply this: Words

Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

have usage, which are more significant than meaning. Often people ask what a word means when maybe the more important thing is how you are using that word. If you took the word Twitter, gave it to a hundred people 10 years ago, and asked them to write their own definition, probably not one of them would have anything remotely to say about a communication means on the Internet. If today you gave a hundred people the same word, especially if they are under 30, more than likely nearly 100% would describe it as an interactive electronic communication means.

When people read something that maybe is older than 10 years or 20 years, they need to be aware that sometimes there are major changes in the usage of a word and that at other times there have been slight usage changes. It is important to see it in its time and in its context in order to understand its meaning. Why is that so significant to us? It is because God has a message for us. Though times, circumstances, and word usage may shift, it is worth the effort to see what words mean and what the message is to our hearts. We expand our understanding because of the significance of a search engine like Google. We would do well to expand our comprehension of the things of God in understanding a transformation of a word like redemption.

I would point out that things will continue to change. For folks who may be older, you may not think that is good news since you find it so difficult to adjust. However, I find it very interesting that many young people are not excited about change either because they think that the way their world is will be how it is going to be for a long, long time. They have jumped on the Internet surfboard and are riding it to what they think is the crest, but it will change. There will be new ideas, new words, and new things to Twitter about and Google. The day will come when those concepts will be in a museum somewhere. Does that make them insignificant or unimportant? Not at all!

In all of this change, whether you call it revolution or evolution, explosion or expansion, one thing never changes and that is our need for God. Malachi quotes the Lord as he says, "I am the Lord, I change not" (Mal. 3:6). The writer of Hebrews in the New Testament says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). Whatever else is taking place in our world and however the world may be shifting and shaking, Jesus is the solid rock on which you can stand secure and build for eternity. So on those days when you are in a twitter, look to Jesus.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

MEADOWVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Starkville, MS, is seeking pianist. Please send resumes to 300 Linden Circle, Starkville, MS 39759, attn: personnel committee.

MANTEE BAPTIST CHURCH OF Webster County is currently seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resume to search committee, c/o Mantee Baptist Church, P.O. Box 161, Mantee, MS 39751.

OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Meridian, Miss., is looking for a piano player. Contact us at 601.482.5583 or mike.ohbc@comcast.net.

NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, Vicksburg, MS, is seeking full-time Pastor. Send resumes to pastor search committee, 28 Mingo Road, Vicksburg, MS 39183.

WEATHERSBY BAPTIST CHURCH, Mendenhall, Miss., is seeking a minister of music and to work with children. Please send resume to search committee, Weathersby Baptist Church, 104 Church St., 39114.

SUMMER YOUTH WORKER: Eastside Baptist Church, Belzoni, Miss., Send resume to Eastside Baptist Church, 808 Virginia Street, Belzoni, Ms 39038. Or email to eastsidebaptistc@bellsouth.net. Call 662-247-3844 M-F 8-12 or leave a message.

NORTH COLUMBIA BAPTIST Church, Columbia, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music/education. Please email resumes to ncbc1@hotmail.com or mail them to P.O. Box 271, Columbia, MS 39429.

HOLCOMB BAPTIST CHURCH, Holcomb, Miss., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to youth search committee, c/o HBC, 12135 Hwy. 8 West, Grenada, MS 38901.

FULL-TIME MINISTER TO CHILDREN & families: Clearview Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama is accepting resumes for the position of full-time Minister to Children & Families. Send resume to Clearview Baptist Church, attn: search committee, 5271 Old Springville Road, Pinson, AL 35126 or connie@clearviewbaptist.com or call 205.854.2027.

GULF SHORES VACATION HOME: Spring Special \$399/wk. Summer Special \$899/wk. Sleeps 12. Call 225-241-5667 or visit www.gsfamilyretreat.com.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, krinklas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, 800-728-8291.

FULL-TIME PASTOR NEEDED AT FBC Morgan City, Louisiana. Prefer Southern Baptist Seminary and pastoral experience. Send resume to FBCMC, 1915 Victor II Blvd, Morgan City, LA, 70380 or email to jerry@morgancityrentals.com.

STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 877-477-1899.

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STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 26, 2009

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

2009 SENIOR ADULT RETREATS

Cost \$5 per day or
preregister for both days

Retreat I

May 18-19

FBC, Holly Springs

Preacher: Clarence Cooper
Brandon

Justified Jug Band, Olive Branch;

Bill King; Conrad Howell;

Forrest Smith;

P.J. Scott; Daniel Hall;

Dulcimers Band, Northeast;

FBC Choir, New Albany;

FBC Choir, Calhoun City

Retreat II

May 21-22

FBC, Louisville

Preacher: Argile Smith, Biloxi

Ragger Roos, women's ensemble;

Sonrise, men's ensemble, FBC Jackson;

Mickey Bounds; Gordon Sansing;

Talmadge Smith; Daniel Hall;

Forrest Smith;

FBC Choir, Madison

Retreat III

May 25-26

FBC, Biloxi

Preacher: Bill Baker, Clinton

John Yates; Judy Marby;

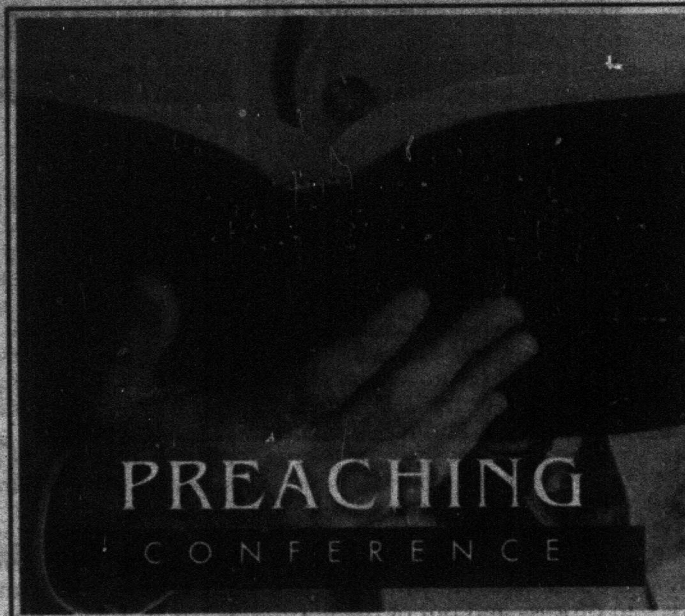
Bill Patterson; Irene Martin;

Don Stewart; Daniel Hall;

First Love, ladies quartet, Jackson;

Cottage Hills Choir, Mobile

For more information on these events,
call Glenn Shows at
601-292-3373 or 800-748-1651, ext. 373,
or to preregister call
1-800-748-1651, ext. 216



Featured Presenters:

Daniel Caldwell

Ronald Meeks

Wayne VanHorn

C. Alan Woodward

Blue Mountain College

Monday, April 20

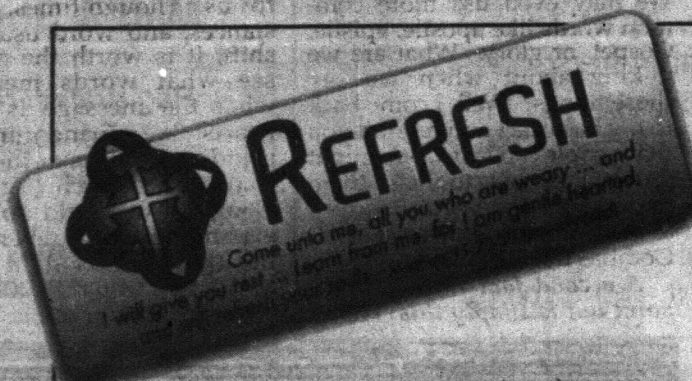
Mississippi College

Tuesday, April 21

William Carey University

Wednesday, April 22

For more info:
Pastor/Leadership
Department
601-292-3305
1-800-748-1651, ext.
305
kmcconnell@mbcb.org



FOCUSING ON KINGDOM ESSENTIALS

May 30, 2009

9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Temple BC, Hattiesburg
West Campus

A conference for congregational leaders seeking
spiritual strength and refreshment so that they may
serve more effectively in the Kingdom of Christ.

*The REFRESH Conference is for you if you are
serving in a church leadership role and feel you
need spiritual encouragement in fulfilling your
responsibilities. Or if you need new insight and
training related to your assignment, REFRESH
will outline the newest approaches.*

*There will be traditional age-graded leadership
workshops and electives to please staff
members, key leaders and bi-vocationalists.*

CONFERENCE HEADLINERS

Don Wilton - Keynote Speaker

T.W. Hunt - Spiritual Growth for Leaders

Tony Merida - Sunday Sermon Preparation

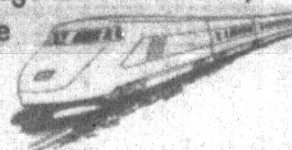
Lavon Gray - Worship: Then, Now and Forever

Tommy King - Balancing Bivocational Ministry and Lifestyle

For more information, contact Laura Marler in
Mission Strategy at the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 800-748-1651, ext. 231,
601-292-3231, or E-mail: lmarler@mbcb.org.

Missions Extravaganza for Preschoolers and Children

1st - 6th grade children who are accompanying their parents to the conference
are invited to participate in a Missions Extravaganza. The Preschool Ministry Dept.
of Temple Baptist Church will provide child care for preschoolers attending the con-
ference with their parents. There is no cost for the Extravaganza or child care,
however preregistration is required. To register call Diane
Howell at Temple Baptist Church (601) 450-3069.
Deadline to register is May 15, 2009.



Conference Hotel

Microtel Inn

(601) 450-1592

105 Westover Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39042

Rate: \$75 available through
April 29 - after that regular
rates apply.

Ask for group:
REFRESH Conference

GET CONNECTED! CONFERENCE

THIS CONFERENCE, DESIGNED FOR

- Pastors • Ministers of Education
- Sunday School Directors

WILL HELP ANY SIZE CHURCH GET CONNECTED

- To God • To Each Other • To the Community

THROUGH MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS.

Reservations
Required

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
(dinner included)

Monday, May 4
Fifteenth Avenue
Meridian

Tuesday, May 5
Calvary Baptist
Church, Hattiesburg

For more info or to register, Sunday School Department, 601-292-3291 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291

2004 PRESCHOOL/ CHILDREN'S MINISTER RETREAT FOLLOW THE LEADER

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28

Cost \$45. Registration begins at 1 p.m. at Patterson Place

Charity Gwaltney - FBC, Starkville

Ron Falvey - FBC, Madison

Chuck Myers - Worship - Raymond Road BC

Questions? Contact Don Gann or Deanna Vail at 601-292-3335
or 1-800-748-1651 or dgann@mbcb.org or dvail@mbcb.org

Called to Love ...
Amazing Grace

National WMU Leadership Training & Missions Celebration

ANNUAL MISSIONS CELEBRATION WITH ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 2, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Featuring ...

Worship Leader - **April Wesbrooks**

Donna Swarts, President

Mississippi WMU

Kay Cassibry, Executive Director

Mississippi WMU

Matt & Shea, IMB Representatives

Registration required for lodging and/or meals

For registration info: 601-292-3317,

1-800-748-1651, ext. 317, or lmiller@mbcb.org

You may also check our Web site at
www.mbcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu

ROUNDTABLE

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Cathedralville First Baptist Church
Cathedralville, Tennessee

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- Mapping for strategic field connections
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- Critical Conference tracks for Chinese and Korean speakers

For more info, visit www.mfz.org or contact
Angie Boydston at aboydstun@mbcb.org



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first to preregister and
receive a **GIANT**
inflatable kangaroo!

April 14
Calvary BC, Macon
Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale
Siloam BC, Meadville

April 16
Gaston BC, Booneville
Parkway BC, Kosciusko
Temple West BC, Hattiesburg

April 21
FBC, Belzoni
FBC, Oxford

For more information contact Angie Boydston at
aboydstun@mbcb.org or
Lee Ann Boykin at lboykin@mbcb.org
or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292

6:30 p.m. Worship Rally
7-9 p.m. Conferences

CONFERENCES

- Preschool, Children, Youth and Adult
- Pastors, Evangelism and General Officers
- Children's Rotation: Missions, Music, Crafts and Snacks
- Club VBS: Truth Trek



2009 Family Celebrations

FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Wednesday, May 13
Mobile Bay Association Family Life Center
 For contact information: mobilebayassociation@yahoo.com or
 call 601-656-1020

Saturday, May 16
Williamsville Baptist Church, Keweenaw
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 For contact information: 662-289-4293 or Email Attala Baptist
 Association at aboamdbw@bellsouth.net
Special Guest: Ventriloquist: Judy Marby, Destin, Fla.
 Juggling, fire blowing, magic and more with Robert Day, Byram



Mississippi Singing Churchmen in Concert

MONDAY
 April 27, 7 p.m.
 Mt. Zion BC, Columbus
TUESDAY
 April 28, noon
 FBC, Houston
TUESDAY
 April 28, 7 p.m.
 Anchor BC
 Water Valley/Oxford

For more info: Church Music
 Department, 601-292-3267
 1-800-748-1651, ext. 267

ignite

MS Super Summer 09

JULY 13 - 17, 2009 MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

JULY 13 - 17, 2009 MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

SPEAKER

Matt Kerlin

Birmingham, AL

WORSHIP LEADER

Dave Hunt

Nashville, TN

SUPER SUMMER 2009 COSTS AND REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

Students and Adult leaders - **\$200** if registered by May 1
\$250 if registered May 2 - June 3
NO REGISTRATIONS OR REFUNDS ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 3.

DEADLINES STRICTLY ENFORCED!

For a registration CD Packet, contact René Edwards at
 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284, or E-mail redwards@mbcb.org. You can also
 download forms from our Web site: mbcb.org or mssupersummer.com

IT'S A NEW DAY.

National leaders from
 Crown Financial
 Ministries will hold
 two seminars to
 guide you in helping
 your church family
 become DEBT FREE.

Garaywa Camp and
 Conference Center
 Clinton

Thursday - May 20
 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 \$20 per person
 No charge for spouses

Central Hills
 Baptist Retreat
 Keweenaw

Friday - May 22
 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 \$20 per person
 No charge for spouses

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Stewardship Department
 will waive your registration fee
 if you call to register before May 11, 2009.

Call Susan Robinson at 1-800-748-1651, ext 347, or locally
 at 601-292-3347

or E-mail her at srobinson@mbcb.org.

Sponsored by the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi
 Baptist Convention Board and Crown Financial Ministries

Pray this day for...

MARCH 27-APRIL 9, 2009

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength ..." Mark 12:28-30

(1) Continue to pray for Cicero BC in Syracuse, New York. (2) Continue to pray for the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Ukraine that was helped to start by our own MS Christian Action Commission. In February they helped to prevent three abortions of young ladies who came to the center with a different intent.

(1) State Ministry Assistants' Conference, Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton, 10 a.m. - 30th - 4 p.m., 31st (P/LD). (2) Pray for follow-up activities that are currently going on in Montevideo, Uruguay, after a recent Franklin Graham crusade.

Pray for Joe R., an IMB missionary who has recently transitioned to the country of Georgia. Pray as he develops relationships and seeks church partners from here in America.

Pray for Rodney and Sydney Coleman, IMB missionaries to Dominican Republic. They serve in the southern church plant area among the eight least provinces in the country.

BSU Summer Missions orientation begins for over 200 MS college students who will be serving in North America and around the world. Pray for these students April 2-3 as they make these preparations to serve. (1) Macedonian Call

Meeting: Garaywa, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (WMU); (2) Missionary Parents' Fellowship (MPF), Garaywa, 3rd-4th (WMU); (3) MissionsNOW, Morrison Heights BC, Clinton, 3rd-noon (WMU). (1) Young Musicians'

Festival, Swor Auditorium, Mississippi College, Clinton (CM); (2) Mississippi Missionary Fellowship, Garaywa, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (WMU).

Pray for the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Ukraine that was helped to start by our own MS Christian Action Commission. In February they helped to prevent three abortions of young ladies who came to the center with a different intent.

Pray as Missions Mobilization works with 25 students and adults preparing for summer mission service in Malaysia, China, Thailand and Ukraine. Pray for their summer and all the logistics that go into making mission journeys a reality.

Pray for the International Mission Board as they are currently going through a restructuring time, changing from a regional focus to an affinity group focus. This will mean some changes for a lot of our IMB personnel. Pray for God's direction through all the changes.

Pray for other ministries of the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Ukraine. Pray for the parenting classes, childbirth classes and the continued training of new volunteers to work at the center.

In Dominican Republic, pray specifically for the unchurched provinces of Independencia and Bahoruco. Pray that a worker will be sent by the Lord of the harvest to work among these precious people.

FamilyFESTSM Natchez, Mississippi July 18-23, 2009

FamilyFESTSM is a pre-packaged missions trip for families, adult teams and student teams. It is ministry driven. This FamilyFEST is a partnership between national WMU[®], Mississippi Baptist Convention departments (MS wMu, the Men's Ministry, and Adams Baptist Association and local participating churches).

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

EARLY BIRD: April 18		REGULAR: May 18
Individual	\$125	\$140
Family of 2	\$225	\$255
Family of 3	\$325	\$370
Family of 4	\$400	\$460
Family of 5 or more	\$500	\$575

TO REGISTER:

CALL
(205) 991-8100
OR VISIT

www.wmu.com/volunteerconnection

State contacts: Tammy Anderson (MS wMu) or Don Gann (Men's Ministry) 1-800-748-1651

Mississippi Baptist
State Senior Adult
Choir Festival

May 5, 2009
Morrison Heights BC
Clinton

For more info:
Church Music Department
601-292-3267
1-800-748-1651, ext. 273
or palford@mbcb.org



Christian
Education
Clinic

Cost \$5 at the door
Classes for Infants and
Toddlers
2's - 3's, 4's - 5's
After school care

For questions and preregistration, please call 228-832-4311

May 9
Woolmarket BC, Biloxi
Registration 7:30 a.m.
Conferences on the hour
beginning at 8 til noon

MS Dept. of Health approved

Cosponsored by the Gulf Coast Baptist
Association and the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board

It is the desire of Mississippi Baptists and the
Gulf Coast Baptist Association to offer quality
Christian training for those who affect the
lives of Mississippi's most precious citizens.

MPF MISSISSIPPI

PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP

April 3-4, Garaywa

MMF MISSISSIPPI

MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

April 4, Garaywa

For info: Mississippi WMU
601-292-3317

HOUSE TOPS

DELIGHT

Editor:

I am deli
ters to the
and print
Record. It
informative
Baptists hav
various top
church
well as will
Thank
informed of
they relat
Thank you
Tom F. H
Calvary

BLIND NO

Editor:

HB 144
Legislature
override th
of Ranki
expressed
In a bill tha
areas arou
liquor can b

Hatt

MARCH 26,

LIGHTED

Editor:
I am delighted to read that let-
ters to the editor will be revived
and printed in The Baptist
Record. It is interesting and
informative to read what fellow
Baptists have to say and share on
various topics. The pictures of
church activities are good, as
well as will be the letters.

Thank you for keeping us
informed on current events as
they relate to Baptist life.
Thank you for being our editor.
Tom F. Rayburn, pastor
Calvary Church, Canton

END NO MORE

Editor:
HB 1441 in the Mississippi
legislature seeks once again to
override the will of the majority
Rankin County voters
expressed in previous elections.
A bill that seeks resort status for
casinos around the state where
none can be offered by the glass,

in a description of what a resort
area is, the following language is
inserted in lines 171-175 to thwart
the will of Rankin County voters:

*Any facility that is located with-
in a municipality that is bordered
by the Pearl River, traversed by
Mississippi Highway 25, adjacent
to the boundaries of the Jackson
International Airport and is locat-
ed in a county which has voted
against coming out from under the
dry law (emphasis mine).*

Four out of five of the
authors of this bill are
Republicans, including the two
who live in Rankin County:
Mark Baker, District 74 and
Kevin McGee, District 59.

Baptists have long support-
ed Republican candidates for
their stand on issues like abor-
tion. I'm afraid we've gotten
lazy, though, and voted for
Republicans without consider-
ing where they stand on other
issues and where their
Democrat opponents stand.

Given a choice between a
Democrat against abortion, the
spread of gambling, and

liquor sales, I'd have give
them strong consideration. I
know many committed
Christian Baptists who are
Democrats, yet Mississippi
Baptists are too often associat-
ed with the GOP — which has
let us down on many issues
including onshore gambling.

We should not blindly sup-
port any party, because par-
ties have their own agendas
that too often are counter to
what we believe.

Richard C. 'Ric' Cochran
Brandon

CALL ME CLIPPER

Editor:

You might call me a clipper.
Every week I clip something
from The Baptist Record, if it's
only Dr. Futral's Directions col-
umn. Please never leave out the
Way of Salvation. I have
clipped that out and mailed to
some people in the State of
Washington.

I teach an adult Sunday
School class and always find
something I can use in our class
each Sunday.

Thanks for a job well done.
Just keep on doing what you are
doing and God will bless you.

H. Russell Cooper
Gore Springs

A SHAME

Editor:

Isn't it a shame that only one
out of six Southern Baptist U.S.
Congressmen wrote anything
concerning the sanctity of
human life? With a president
who has made it very clear that
he wholeheartedly supports
the pro-choice agenda, only
Heath Shuler (D.-N.C.)
expressed his concern over the
protection of life at all stages.

This is a sad indictment on
the five who remained silent on
this issue and, to some degree
due to their denominational
affiliation, Southern Baptists as
a whole. Whether he for lack of
courage or fear of rebuke, these
men have failed to use the plat-
form God has provided them to
stand against the moral failures
of our country.

As Southern Baptists and
Christians in general, we should
care more about American's
moral compass than our current
economic woes. Thank you,
Congressman Shuler, for
sharing your Christian convic-
tions without shame or fear.
Thanks also goes to our editor,
William Perkins, for consistent-
ly printed articles concerning
abortion and other social ills.

Joey Barnard, pastor
Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No
multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address
and telephone number for verification. In
special instances, name may be withheld at
writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating
Mississippi Baptist church where corre-
spondent is a member. (Mississippi
Baptists' letters will receive priority when
space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All
correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from per-
sonal attacks. The opinions expressed in
letters to the editor do not necessarily
reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any indi-
vidual will be printed during a three-
month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a
given issue has received sufficient atten-
tion, correspondence dealing with it will
no longer be published and a notice will
be printed to that effect.

William Carey University

Hattiesburg Gulfport New Orleans



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This ad is provided by the Education Commission of the Mississippi
Baptist Convention Board. The Education Commission is the primary
agency between Mississippi Baptists and our three Baptist institutions of
higher learning: Blue Mountain, Mississippi College, and William Carey
University. The Commission acknowledges and is grateful for the support of
MS Baptists in these three institutions. It is important to encourage
participation in our churches and youth programs to consider
attending a Baptist college/university in Mississippi.

OBITUARY

1. Lincoln County native
W.J. Hughes died on
Mar. 14. Ordained by
Calvary Baptist in
Pascagoula in 1949,
Hughes was a 1953
graduate of Mississippi
College, and 1958 gradu-
ate of New Orleans
Baptist Theological
Seminary. He started four
churches while in school,
including Morgantown
Baptist in Natchez, which
met for its first service
under a pecan tree.
Hughes married Dorothy
Nichols of Louisiana;
they became missionaries
with the SBC's Home
Mission Board. He was
responsible for starting
nine works in North
Dakota and Minnesota,
led five works in
Wyoming at the same
time — three were consti-
tuted as churches on the
same day, March 4, 1973
— and was responsible
for the start of 32 works
in Montana before he
retired in 1992. He contin-
ued in ministry until his
death that followed short-
ly after a stroke.
Memorials may be made
to the Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering for North
American Missions. Cards
may be sent to Dorothy
Hughes at 14913 Twelve
Oaks Dr., Choctaw OK
73020. Survivors include
three sons, a daughter,
and 13 grandchildren.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Pianist and poet Oni Buchanan will perform in concert
March 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Smith Auditorium on the
Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University.
Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$7 for senior citi-
zens. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance
by calling (601) 318-6179 or 318-6175. There is a reception
for Oni Buchanan immediately following the recital in
the Lucile Parker Art Gallery, hosted by the Delta
Omicron Music Fraternity.
2. An Evening with Faculty and Friends will be presented
by the Blue Mountain College department of fine arts at
7:30 p.m. March 26, in Garrett Hall Auditorium. Jerri
Lamar Kantack, Jeremy Owens and Larry Wimberly, all
members of the BMC music faculty, will perform classi-
cal and American traditional works by composers as
Handel, Mozart, Purcell, Brahms, Liszt, Ives, Floyd and
others. The BMC faculty trio will be joined by Tupelo
friends: soprano Vicki Wilson, violinist Svetlana
Kaltchenko and flutist Nan Holder. It is a free recital for
all friends of Blue Mountain College.
3. Mississippi College welcomes Burn Page as Christian
Studies professor. He also serves as director of the Institute
of Christian Leadership. The 54-year-old Page will teach
New Testament and Old Testament classes, among other
duties. His teaching experience includes service as an
adjunct professor at William Carey University on the Gulf
Coast and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
at its Baton Rouge extension.
4. William Carey University will begin offering a master of bio-
medical science degree in the fall of 2009. The master of bio-
medical science degree is an intense one-year program consist-
ing of human anatomy, human microanatomy, medical bio-
chemistry, medical physiology, epidemiology, history of medi-
cine, biomechanics and medical education. The degree is
designed to afford the student many opportunities, such as
professional schools entry (osteopathic DO and allopathic
MD medical schools; dental school; optometry school; podia-
try school; Ph.D. and other doctoral programs) and job
improvement (teaching, public health, pharmaceuticals). The
master of biomedical science degree is part of William Carey
University's School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences. For
more information call (601) 318-6610 or (800) 962-5991, ext. 610.

LifeWay conference tackles ministers' wives concerns

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The life of a man in the ministry can be taxing to say the least, but what about life for his wife?

About 300 ministers' wives from across the United States and as far away as Japan met at a Between Us Ministers' Wives conference March 12-13 in Nashville. The women's events area of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention organized the gathering, which preceded a Beth Moore Living Proof Live event for ministers' wives.

One of the best reasons to be there, one wife said, was to see she was not alone.

By and large, the ministers' wives said they were happy to be married to men on church staffs. "I felt like I knew what I was getting into because he was already in the ministry when we got married," one wife said. "I married the man, but got the ministry along with him."

Chris Adams, LifeWay's senior lead women's ministry specialist, described ministers' wives as special women. "They deal with all the issues that being married involves, but in a fishbowl," Adams said. "Then, if they have children, they may feel like the church is looking at her, expecting her to be a perfect mother of perfect kids. That's a

lot of pressure for anyone."

Adams said LifeWay had wanted to host the Between Us conference to help equip ministers' wives for some time. "We thought having it in conjunction with the Living Proof Live event for ministers' wives was ideal. I think the women agreed," Adams said.

A panel of ministers' wives, past and present, opened the event, including Becky Badry, director of women's missions and ministry for the Colorado Baptist General Convention and a chaplain's wife; Rachel Lovingood, a writer, teacher, and student pastor's wife from Hendersonville, Tenn.; and Leighann McCoy, author, coordinator of prayer and women's ministries and pastor's wife from Thompson's Station, Tenn., sat on the panel.

Three LifeWay staff members also were on the panel: Pam Case, who is a pastor's wife from Nashville; Karen Alexander-Doyel, an author and pastor's widow from Lenoir City, Tenn.; and Jennifer Landrith, a conference leader and pastor's wife from Hendersonville, Tenn.

Among the issues they listed that ministers' wives face:

- "I'm really lonely."
- "Who can I trust?"

- "How do I raise my kids in ministry?"

- "What do I do about all these other women who love and adore my husband?"

- "There's so much criticism."

- "Church members always want me to be a messenger from them to my husband."

The panel members offered advice based on their own experiences and wisdom:

- "Never forget that you are the absolute best, perfect minister's wife for your church," Alexander-Doyel said, "because God specifically placed you there. It's no accident you are where you are."

- "Remember that you are only responsible for you. I can't control anyone else's spiritual growth, passion or anything. Seek God first every day," Lovingood said.

- "Be real. Be who God designed you to be," Landrith said.

- "Every day when something hard comes up remember that there will be something awesome on the other side," Case said.

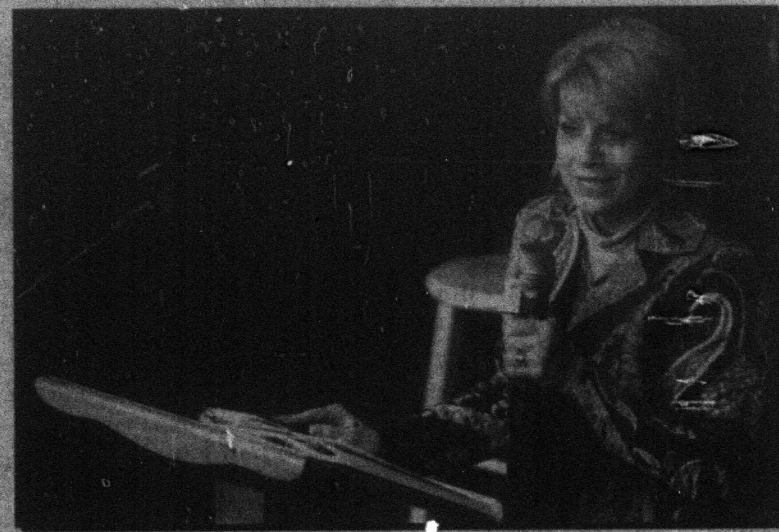
- "Your first call is to walk with God. Your second is to take care of your husband and your family. Your third is to the ministry," Badry said.

- "Wear only waterproof mascara," said McCoy, getting a hearty "amen" from the crowd.

Small breakout sessions during the Between Us conference ran the gamut from laughing at yourself to dealing with difficult people.

Alexander-Doyel, in a session on making Sunday the best day of the week, counseled, "You have to get ready for Sunday." Start on Monday thinking about getting clothes ready, getting your house clean [and] getting an after-church lunch plan. If you are ready for Sunday on Saturday afternoon, you can have your day of rest and worship."

McCoy, who led a session on laughing a little, said it can help ministers' wives keep



JUST FOR WOMEN — Chris Adams, LifeWay's senior lead women's ministry specialist, welcomes the 300 ministers' wives to the Between Us Ministers' Wives conference March 12-13 in Nashville. (BP photo)

their sanity in various situations that come up in church. "You have to be willing to laugh at yourself and at all the truly bizarre situations that will come up in your life with your church," McCoy said, "and you need to have a friend who will laugh with you!"

To find out more about LifeWay's outreach to ministers' wives and to sign up for the ministers' wives community, go to www.lifeway.com/women and click on "ministers' wives" under "helpful resources."

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Sunrise Church, Petal:** Revival, May 3-6; Stan Buckley, speaker; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, music. The church's adult choir will also present a Easter musical during morning worship Apr. 12.
2. **Temple Church, Myrtle:** Revival, Apr. 5-10; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Randy Hamilton, speaker; Les Kitchens, music; Donnie Schuman, pastor.
3. **Liberty Hill Church, Pope:** Revival, Mar. 29-Apr. 1; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tino Travino, speaker; Frank West, music; Jay Anderson, pastor.
4. **Branch Church, Scott County:** 100th anniversary, May 2, 1-4 p.m.; ice cream, cake, photos, memorabilia, and a few surprises; call (601) 732-6067 or 732-6947 for information.
5. **ML Olivet Church, Scott County:** Revival, Mar. 29-Apr. 1; Sun., 10:45 a.m. followed by covered dish lunch and 5:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Shannon Burns, speaker; Bruce Robinson, pastor.
6. **Plainway Church, Laurel:** 59th homecoming, Apr. 5; Charles Jones, Harold Ishee, speakers; dinner on the grounds following service; for information, call (601) 426-6505.
7. **Gunnison Church, Gunnison:** Revival, Mar. 27-29; Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., potluck supper, 4 p.m., followed by gospel music and speaker; Sun., 11 a.m.; Johnny Bley and Butch Cummins, speakers.
8. **ML Olive Church, Okolona:** revival, Apr. 5-8; Sun., 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Rinehart, speaker; various music specials; for information, call (662) 447-2757, 263-4994, or 341-0006; email bigmcarpentry@hotmail.com.
9. **Rocky Point Church, Carthage:** Revival, Apr. 5-8; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m., followed by lunch; 7 p.m. nightly; David Addy, speaker; Kim Hester, music.
10. **Bethany Church, Potts Camp:** Revival, Mar. 29-Apr. 1; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Douglas Rakestraw, speaker; Bobby Greer, music.

STATE CHANGES

1. **First Church, Kosciusko,** has called Shannon Shivers as youth minister. He comes from First Church, Richland, with his wife Sandra and children, Conner and Jack.

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For brochure, information, and letter from Rev. Myers call 7 days a week:

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Hang in There

Nehemiah 6:1-16

By Arthur Story

Nehemiah is a powerful study for every believer seeking to serve God. Hopefully, our study of Nehemiah has equipped each of us to identify areas of service, prepared us to be used by God, motivated us to remain steadfast in service, moved us to act with justice, and challenged us to encourage others. Still, there is one more lesson we need to take away from our study of Nehemiah.

Starting strong and working through the job isn't enough. We have to finish the work we've been called to do. In this week's study of Nehemiah we see two simple steps that will enable each of us to remain focused and finish the work we've been called to do.

Avoid Distraction (Neh. 6:1-9)

Once again the enemies of the Nehemiah and the Jews attempt to halt the work on the wall.

Previously they sought to stop the construction through outright mockery of the work, intimidation of the people, and planning together to attack. Having seen each of these approaches fail, they now come to Nehemiah in a less threatening manner. They petition him to meet with them for counsel. Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem, and the others send four separate letters to Nehemiah in an effort to get him to stop his work and meet with them. Four times Nehemiah responds by telling them that his work is too important to stop.

After four failed attempts to distract him from his work, Nehemiah's enemies use a different tactic. This time they send an open letter that contains accusations against Nehemiah. The fact that the letter is an open letter is a sign of their contempt. Open letters were sent to those viewed as



Story

inferior. A letter to one of standing or a peer would have been sealed, carried in a bag, or at least tied with a colored ribbon. In addition, the open state of the letter indicates that its contents were meant to be shared with the people. Nehemiah's enemies hoped to exert

pressure on him to meet with them by stirring the people against him. This too failed!

Nehemiah understood that he had to remain focused until the work was completed. He knew that failure to finish the final stages of the work would've been to fail entirely. He knew that ninety-eight percent complete was still incomplete. As a result, Nehemiah refused to be distracted. He responded to the accusations pointedly and then prayed as he had done so many times before. If we want to remain focused and finish our work, we need to follow Nehemiah's example and avoid distractions.

Ignore Nay Sayers

(Neh. 6:10-14)

Nehemiah's enemies had a multilayered plan of attack.

While they pressured him from outside Jerusalem, those they had hired in the city were pressuring Nehemiah as well. The fact that this internal pressure came from prophets was no small problem for Nehemiah. Since the Jews held their prophets in high regard this could've been a formidable problem for Nehemiah.

The only recorded counsel from the prophets is given by Shemaiah in verse 10. Shemaiah is quickly identified by Nehemiah as a false prophet working with his enemies because of the conflicted counsel he gave. Nehemiah recognized that God wouldn't call him to this work to rebuild the wall to defeat His enemies only to have him run and hide during the final stages. Nehemiah also knew that God wouldn't contradict Himself. He knew that God wouldn't tell him to do something He had already strictly prohibited. So when Shemaiah instructed him to enter the sanctuary, Nehemiah knew that he was a false prophet being used by

his enemies. Nehemiah responded pointedly to this false prophet and then once again prayed.

Nehemiah refused to be swayed from his work by those that were negative. He ignored their false counsel and took time to pray. If we want to remain focused and finish our work, we need to follow Nehemiah's example and ignore the "Nay Sayers" that will inevitably arise.

See the Work to Completion
(Neh. 6:15-16)

Nehemiah finished his work on the wall in fifty-two days because he maintained focus. His focus led others to remain focused on their work as well. In the end, Nehemiah and the Jews weren't intimidated or lacking confidence. Instead, their enemies were intimidated and lost their confidence.

Stepping up to serve God isn't easy. Yet, each of us can remain focused and see our work through to the end by following Nehemiah's example in avoiding distractions and ignoring negative counselors.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Stay Spiritually Alert

Isaiah 38:1-6; 39:1-2,5-8

By Beth S. Bowman

1. Practice Consistent Prayer
(Isaiah 38:1-6)

The prophet Isaiah gives a stern warning to Hezekiah in this passage. Isaiah tells Hezekiah to put his affairs in order because he would not recover from his illness. Hezekiah replied with an immediate response. He turned his face to the wall to engage privacy and began to pray. His conversation with the Lord included his outward expression of weeping and crying. Amazingly, God changed his mind and sent a second message through the prophet that added fifteen years to the life of Hezekiah. Many times a prophet's announcement of impending judgment was often intended to motivate people to avoid that sentence and correct their disobedient behavior. Regardless of how God intended his first message, He

answered Hezekiah's heartfelt prayer with added years to his life.

2. Guard Against Pride
(Isaiah 39:1-2)

Letters and a gift were sent to Hezekiah from Merodach-Baladan in response to Hezekiah's illness. The gifts were delivered by an envoy from the King of Babylon and Hezekiah was very flattered. He decided to "show off" his kingdom's treasures—the silver, the gold, the spices, and the precious oil. He also showed the Babylonians his armory and everything that was found in his treasuries. Instead of boasting in the Lord's healing and the years God had added to his life, Hezekiah decided this was a good time to share with the Babylonians all of the resources he had acquired. These verses indicate there was nothing in his palace that he did not show them.



Bowman

3. Consider Long-Term Consequences
(Isaiah 39:5-8)

Isaiah questioned who the visitors were that Hezekiah had in his palace. In Chapter 39, verse 4, Isaiah asked pointedly, "What have they seen in your palace?" Isaiah knew

that very likely the Babylonians with their "gifts" were an excuse for the Babylonians to see what treasures the nation of Judah actually owned. The Babylonians could then decide if they wanted Judah for an ally or if they should consider conquering them. Hezekiah answered the prophet with a statement that sums up his behavior. "There isn't anything in my storehouses that I didn't show them." (verse 4b). Isaiah responds with the warning from God that one day all of the things that were stored up would be carried off to Babylon. Isaiah went on to say that even some of the descendants of Hezekiah would one day serve in the palace of the

King of Babylon. Hezekiah acknowledged that he deserved Isaiah's rebuke but showed a lot of selfishness by irresponsibly proclaiming that the consequences of his poor judgment would not come in his lifetime.

Application for Today

We need to flood heaven with our prayers. Although none of us know what God's will for the future is, He cherishes our earnest petitions. James 5:16 (HCSB) states, "Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. The intense prayer of the righteous is very powerful." Hezekiah modeled for us what our immediate response should be to devastating news. He prayed desperately, fervently, and passionately. We can trust God always has our best interests in mind and our requests to Him can be made with confidence in His judgment. Our dependence on Him and desire for His will can be manifest in our prayers.

Like Hezekiah, when he was given fifteen extra years, we neglect to honor the Lord who has blessed us far beyond what

we could ever deserve. Our pride can raise its head immediately following an answered prayer. We can forget the all-powerful Creator who has gifted, chosen, and blessed us. We believe our accomplishments can become the results of our skill and hard work, our financial security can be what we have earned, and our resources show what we think we deserve.

My friend Thomas is the opposite of Hezekiah. He doesn't have to practice emergency prayer when there is a crisis in his life. He desperately seeks God every day. Although he has experienced many miracles during his lifetime, he doesn't forget that everything good in his life comes from God. He is a wonderful husband to his wife, consistent Dad and amazingly gifted musician. When given a compliment on any area in his life, he immediately says, "Oh, it's not me-God gets all the glory for anything I do." Thanks, Thomas, for demonstrating your deep faith and others by your gracious example-it's all Him!

Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

African American Baptists growing missions presence

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — As a growing minority within the Southern Baptist Convention, African American Southern Baptists are needed to play pivotal roles in reaching the world with the Gospel, says David Cornelius, African American missional church strategist for the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va.

Congregations such as North Buffalo Community Church in New York and Antioch Church in Fairfax Station, Va., are taking lead roles in supporting missions through a series of mission trips and prayer initiatives.

There are about 3,800 African American Southern Baptist congregations in the United States and nearly 50 African Americans serving as IMB missionaries.

North Buffalo Community Church in New York has organized several trips to West Africa, Middle America, and the Caribbean to work with Southern Baptist personnel as part of becoming an Acts 1:8 church — one that commits to a comprehensive missions strategy in their community, state, continent, and world.

Years before the church took its first international missions trip, senior pastor William Smith heard of a longstanding prayer request for an African American missionary couple to

help reach a particular people in Suriname.

Years later, while serving as an IMB trustee, Smith shared an elevator with Courtney and Arleen Street from Maryland, who were in Richmond for a missionary candidate conference.

The pastor asked the couple where they were going to serve. When the Streets told

him they were headed to Suriname, Smith became emotional as he shared the prayer request he'd heard long ago.

The Streets were "God's handpicked missionaries" in answer to a 25-year-old prayer request," Smith says.

"I remember him with tears in his eyes," Courtney says. "He got very excited

because God had answered prayers for Suriname."

The chance meeting between the missionaries and Smith grew into a missions partnership. "Brother Bill became one of our biggest prayer supporters," Courtney says. "He led two volunteer trips to Suriname and certainly made a tremendous impact on the lives of the Surinamese."

Appointed as missionaries in 1997, the Streets recently relocated to Antigua.

At the beginning of each year, Antioch Church in Fairfax Station, Va., makes a faith budget for their mission work, which has included trips to West Africa and Brazil.

"We trust that if God calls, He



SHARING GOOD NEWS — Keith Jefferson (right) speaks with a teacher in a village outside of Jeremoabo, Brazil. Jefferson is one of nearly 50 African American missionaries serving overseas through the International Mission Board. (BP photo courtesy of IMB)

will provide the resources," says Michael Coppedge, the church's director of missions. "We pray about what God has for us to do, who to partner with."

About five years ago, Antioch Church began a partnership with Southern Baptist missionaries Keith and Deborah Jefferson of Brazil. Since then, a team from the church has gone overseas at least once a year.

Mission teams in Brazil can openly share the Gospel through preaching in parks or

showing the Jesus film, Coppedge says. In West Africa, they found that relational evangelism — sitting down for coffee or a meal — was the best sharing technique.

"We discuss God, religion, their idea of how to get to heaven as opposed to how we believe," Coppedge says. "Basically, we just share Jesus."

To learn more about African American missional church strategy, contact David Cornelius at (800) 999-3113, ext. 1422.

To learn more about African American church work in the Mississippi Baptist Convention, contact David Michel, associate executive director for mission strategy, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3231 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 231. E-mail: lmarler@mbcb.org.

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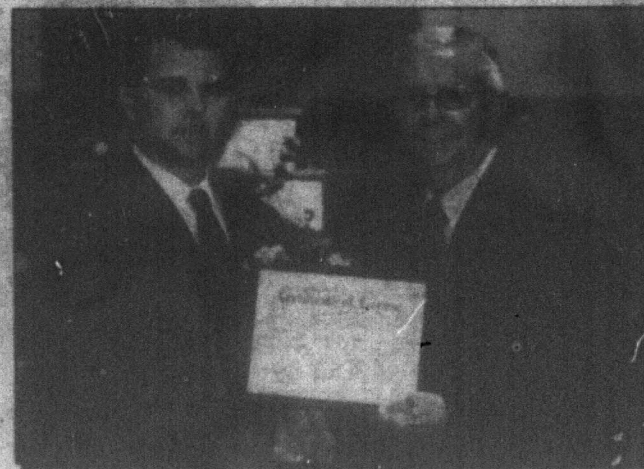


1. Woodland Hills Church keyboard festival

1. Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, recognizes its Feb. 28 State Youth Keyboard Festival participants and summer scholarship recipients. Shown, back row, are Philip Shackelford, Matt Gully, Evan Ciarloni, Robby Baine, and Kipp Gill. Front row, Selah Weems, Morgan Gaugh, Kristen Roark, Murakami Carpenter, Marissa Hipp, Shannon Kynard, and Jennifer Hartline.
2. Bethel Church, Water Valley, is hosting a missions conference Apr. 18, 9 a.m. - noon. Sherry Hagerhjelm, speaker; Shirley Berry, music; registration fee, \$10/pp or \$15/couples. Call to register at (662) 675-8508 or 473-2436.

3. Calvary Church, Petal, will host Norman Geisler, the greatest defender of the faith today, Mar. 28 - 29; Sat., dinner, 5 p.m., service, 6 p.m.; Sun., 9:40 and 11 a.m.
4. Zion Hill Church, Wesson, will have dedication services for their new sanctuary Mar. 29, 10 a.m., followed by dinner.
5. The adult choir of Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto, will present In the Presence of Jehovah Mar. 29, 6 p.m.
6. Mid-Delta Association is hosting its quarterly fish fry and singing at Calvary Chapel Church Apr. 18, beginning at 4 p.m. Sponsoring churches include Calvary Chapel, Bethel, Drew, West Drew, Rome, and Cowert.
7. Park Haven Church, Laurel, is hosting its 6th annual drive-through crucifixion Apr. 3 - 4, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. For information, call (601) 425-2150.
8. First Church, Batesville, recognized Will and Erin Odom at a commissioning service Dec. 7. The Odoms will serve as missionaries to Mexico. P.J. Scott, transitional pastor.
9. New Hope Church, Lauderdale Association, licensed Doug Goodman to the ministry Jan. 18. Shown are Goodman and interim pastor Albert McMullen. Goodman is available for supply, interim, and revivals.

10. Danny Dickerson, pastor, Leaf River Church, Smith County, has written a book Very Early in the Morning Imitating the Actions of Jesus. Dickerson takes Mark 1:35, among other verses, and discusses the relationship between God and man. Books are available at Barnes and Noble, Waldens, and Books-a-Million. It is also available directly from the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore/book.php?w+978-1-60462-962-0.



9. New Hope Church, Lauderdale Association